

September 21.	October 15.
56. Dusky Horned Lark.	60. Western Golden-crown- ed Kinglet.
September 24.	November 18.
57. MacFarlane's Screech Owl.	61. Northern Shrike.
October 1.	November 24.
58. Ruby-crowned Kinglet.	62. Redpoll.
October 4.	February 16, 1900.
59. Black-headed Jay.	63. Green-winged Teal.
REV. W. L. DAWSON, <i>Ahtanum, Wash.</i>	

### MOLTING OF TROCHILUS COLUBRIS.

The molt as evidenced in a series of females of *colubris* offers quite a field for investigation. I have before me twenty examples of *Trochilus colubris*. It has been claimed that no molt is to be observed while the birds are here on their brief summer sojourn with us, but this is only correct in a measure, for certain it is that certain specimens taken in early spring differ widely from those taken later on and into the fall. The change is easily accounted for to an extent, when we remember that these birds perhaps reared their offspring, and in sitting upon their frail structures, protecting their young and their frail homes from the summer storms, very naturally, they more than ordinarily exposed their delicate plumage to wear. But however this may be viewed and giving it its full weight, there is something more than a change, due to these conditions, noticeable in some of the lingering specimens that are taken in the late fall, and attention of working ornithologists should be drawn to it. In this I hope that we may soon have some happy results. The study of the plumage of the juveniles is also interesting, the various stages of it, from the young fellow who is just discovering what his wings are intended for to the final stage of the ruby-throated gallant who flirts around in the sunshine amid the flowers, twittering and whirring his tiny pinions in the balmy air. The extremely young nestlings are no less interesting.

There is not much investigation done along these lines and only a certain class of scientific ornithologists take enough

interest to investigate. But to know a bird well it is necessary to know all about it and the study cannot commence too early in its life history.

The formation of the rubythroat patch commences first in a grayish patch of black or brownish spotted feathers ; these are margined with grayish, which gives the "grayish" aspect or cast to the patch. Then a brilliant patch of ruby will break out on this other patch and finally devour it, as it were, in a brilliant gorget of iridescent fire. The young male does not look unlike the adult female when seen at a short distance. The throat-patch of the male is dead black, when the bird is placed upon its back and a direct downward view taken, while if the bird be laid upon its side, the beauty of the layers of loveliness and sunshine are seen in the bright rufous red or garnet of the throat when the sun strikes it transversely.

Another interesting item is the great variation to be noted in the size of the bills. In the series I am examining there is a very noticeable variation. But to turn back to the question of molt. There is a field for close study, not only in the matter of *colubris* but in all birds, and the tenor of this article is to call attention to rather than point out the importance and the value of such an investigation ; also to seek aid and to request others to help me advance this line of bird study, by contributing notes upon it to our BULLETIN.

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## ANOTHER NEW BIRD FOR LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO.

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It gives me pleasure to record two occurrences of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in Lorain County, Ohio. The first was seen by Mr. R. L. Baird in a low place just outside of Oberlin south, the other by the writer one mile west of North Amherst, on the north side of the south lake ridge. Both were singing lustily and were closely approached, but were not captured, our familiarity with the species in other places making that unnecessary. Mr. Baird's record is May 12 and mine May 19.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that Carolina Wren, which was first seen in the county on September 6,